

VETERINARIAN

DEFINITION:

Under general direction, to provide medical and surgical services to animals at a regional county animal shelter; and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Veterinarian is an animal physician class allocated to the Department of Animal Services providing routine and emergency medical and surgical care for a wide variety of animals in a county animal shelter. Under the direction of Chief, Veterinarian this class is responsible for overseeing, evaluating and ensuring the quality of animal medical services and for overseeing the work of non-professional classes who assist with animal health or euthanasia procedures. Veterinarian is distinguished from the next higher class, Chief Veterinarian, in that the latter coordinates, oversees animal health care programs at county animal shelters, and acts as the animal medical adviser. It is further distinguished from the Veterinary Pathologist, in that the latter diagnoses animal pathologies for the purposes of disease reporting and control, and is allocated only to the Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Maintains a veterinary medical facility at a county animal shelter; provides emergency and routine medical/surgical services for a variety of sick and injured animals; performs spay/neutering surgery on animals prior to adoption; oversees health of impounded animals; examines animals prior to adoption and before release from rabies quarantine; trains and supervises persons performing, or assisting with veterinary duties or medical procedures; supervises use of chemical capture drugs; informs private veterinarians of drugs used and recommends support treatment; oversees use of drugs used for euthanasia; orders and maintains supplies and equipment; may prepare press releases and respond to inquiries from the press; maintains effective community relations; performs studies; uses computer to prepare reports and maintain records; explains medical aspects of animal care and regulation to the public; and performs related work.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Thorough Knowledge of:

- Principles and practices of current veterinary medicine.
- Animal diseases and their prevention, control and eradication.
- Current veterinary practices and techniques relating to the treatment of injured animals.
- County, state and federal animal health laws and regulations.
- Animal regulation procedures and problems.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Provide surgical and medical services and care for a variety of well, sick and injured animals, including a high volume of spay and neutering operations.
- Analyze critical medical and administrative situations and take effective action.

- Provide state-of-the art, high quality animal medical services in the most efficient manner.
- Establish and maintain cooperative and effective relations with those contacted during the course of work.
- Prepare written reports, letters and other documents using a personal computer.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training and/or experience, which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. An example of qualifying education/experience is: a degree in veterinary medicine from an accredited university of veterinary medicine; AND, two (2) years of experience in Veterinary medicine. Supervision program responsibility, and previous experience in shelter medicine are highly desirable.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES OR REQUIREMENTS:**License:**

A valid license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of California at time of appointment. Incumbents must maintain the license while employed in this class.

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange necessary transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their personal vehicle.

Working Conditions:

Work requires travel to various animal shelters throughout the county. May work weekends and holidays.

Background Investigation:

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness with no felony convictions. Misdemeanor convictions may be disqualifying depending on number, severity, and recency. Applicants will be subject to a thorough background check.

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of twelve months. (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).